

## **LDAC advice on ICCAT management measures to restore the status of the bigeye tuna stock in the Atlantic**

Status: Approved by the Executive Committee

Reference: R-04-15/WG1

Original drafting language: French

1. The LDAC takes into account the recommendations made by the SCRS of ICCAT relevant to the status of the bigeye stock, considered to be overexploited and being the object of overfishing: lowering the quota and reducing fishing mortality for juveniles.
2. The LDAC approves the approach proposed by DG MARE consisting of revisiting the scope of management measures (limiting capacity + limiting catches + management plan for FADs) provided for by the ICCAT recommendation 14-01 relative to the multi-annual programme for the conservation and management of tropical tuna.
3. The LDAC recalls that it has already issued a statement in favour of banning transshipments in the high seas for all kinds of fishing gear (including those longliners which currently tranship at sea, i.e. fleets targeting tropical tuna as main species) and requests that it is put forward at the forthcoming ICCAT Annual meeting, similarly as the EU did in 2003
4. Concerning limiting capacity, the LDAC considers that a freeze of the fleet capacity should be proposed to the number of vessels that target tropical tuna according to the ICCAT active fleet register with date 31 December 2014. This freeze should be proposed for a period of 5 years, after which, the coastal States that have submitted a fleet development plan, can incorporate their respective fleets.
5. Concerning catch limits and TACs, the LDAC considers it hard to conceive that the stock might be managed correctly – and much less restored – with measures to limit catches that do not encompass the ensemble of countries with a targeted fishery (or significant by-catch levels) for bigeye. The LDAC thus recommends adopting a decreased quota that is bearable for the sector (down to 70 000 t) with a net decrease of the thresholds of non-eligibility to the quota, with the aim to encompass all the countries that catch more than 500 t of bigeye per annum.
6. Concerning fishing using FADs, the LDAC invites the Commission to adopt, out of precaution, a limitation to the number of FADs prior to the advice from the scientific committee, based on what has been adopted at the level of the IOTC (maximum of 550 active beacons per vessel and 1100 beacons purchased per vessel and year) with an appropriate definition of what an active beacon is.
7. The LDAC wishes that the launching of any FADs other than such as recognised as being non-entangling be forbidden, and for ICCAT to encourage research into biodegradable materials when designing FADs.
8. Finally, the LDAC is in favour of mandatory measures for all vessels above 24 m targeting tropical tuna as main species to have 100 % coverage of human or electronic observers.

### **Minority Statement from NGO group**

The NGO group of the LDAC agree in the need to limit the use of FAD in tropical tuna fisheries, also for the case of bigeye tuna in the Atlantic, but are of the opinion that the proposed limit of 550 FAD per vessel and year is too high taking into account the notorious increase in fishing efficiency that have on purse seiners. The NGOs deem it important that SCRS develops, through its Working Group on FADs, an advice on the management of these devices from a fishing effort perspective.

The NGOs believe that TAC for bigeye tuna in the Atlantic should be established in line with the objective stated in the Basic CFP Regulation (No 1380/2013) in order to reach MSY.